

## IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**1. (currently amended):** An aqueous ink composition for ~~the~~ an ink-jet printing method, which ink comprises

a) metallic or non-metallic, inorganic platelet-shaped particles having an average particle diameter of at least 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , wherein the platelet-shaped particles are pigments that comprise  
(a1) a core consisting of a substantially transparent or metallicity reflecting material and  
(a2) at least one coating ~~substantially~~ consisting essentially of one or more silicon oxides ( $\text{SiO}_x$  layer) wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to  $< 0.95$  or  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$ ,

or

~~wherein~~ the platelet-shaped particles are aluminium flakes coated with  $\text{SiO}_z$  wherein  $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$ ,

or

the platelet-shaped particles are gloss pigments wherein the core consists essentially of one or more silicon oxides ( $\text{SiO}_x$  layer) wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to  $< 0.95$  or  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$ .

(b) an  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer, wherein  $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$ ,

(c) optionally, a layer  $D^M$  having a transparency of from 50 to 100% and a complex refractive index  $\tilde{N} = n + ik$  satisfying the condition  $\sqrt{n^2 + k^2} \geq 1.5$  at the wavelength of maximum visible reflection of the particles, which is substantially composed of carbon, an organic compound, inorganic or organic pigments or colorants, a metal, metal oxides or sulfides, a dielectric or a mixture thereof, and which is either on top of the core or, if an  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer is present, is separated from the core by the  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer,

b) a dispersant (dispersing agent) and

c) a binder.

**2. (cancelled)**

3. **(previously presented)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are aluminium flakes coated with  $\text{SiO}_z$  wherein  $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .

4. **(currently amended)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are pigments that comprise

(a1) a core consisting of a substantially transparent or metallically reflecting material and

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides ( $\text{SiO}_x$  layer)

wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to  $< 0.95$  or  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$ .

5. **(currently amended)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 4, wherein the pigment has the following layer structure:

(a3)  $\text{SiO}_z$ ,

(a2) at least one coating ~~substantially~~ consisting essentially of one or more silicon oxides wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to  $< 0.95$ ,

(a1) a core consisting of a substantially transparent or metallically reflecting material,

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to  $< 0.95$ ,

(a3)  $\text{SiO}_z$ ,

or

(a4) a coating consisting of any desired solid material the composition of which is different from that of the coating (a3),

(a3)  $\text{SiO}_z$ ,

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to  $< 0.95$ ,

(a1) a core consisting of a substantially transparent or metallically reflecting material,

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to  $< 0.95$ ,

(a3)  $\text{SiO}_z$ ,

(a4) a coating consisting of any desired solid material the composition of which is different from that of the coating (a3),

wherein  $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .

**6. (currently amended)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 5~~1~~, wherein the pigment has the following layer structure:  $\text{SiO}_x/\text{SiO}_z/\text{SiO}_x$ ,  $\text{SiO}_z/\text{SiO}_x/\text{SiO}_z/\text{SiO}_x/\text{SiO}_z$ ,  $\text{SiO}_x/\text{Al}/\text{SiO}_x$ ,  $\text{SiO}_z/\text{SiO}_x/\text{Al}/\text{SiO}_x/\text{SiO}_z$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SiO}_z/\text{SiO}_x/\text{SiO}_z/\text{SiO}_x/\text{SiO}_z/\text{TiO}_2$ , or  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SiO}_z/\text{SiO}_x/\text{Al}/\text{SiO}_x/\text{SiO}_z/\text{TiO}_2$ , wherein  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$  and  $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .

**7. (currently amended)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are gloss pigments ~~comprising~~  
wherein the (a) a core ~~substantially consisting~~ consists essentially of one or more silicon oxides ( $\text{SiO}_x$  layer) wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to  $< 0.95$  or  $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$ ,  
 (b) ~~optionally~~, an  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer, wherein  $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$ ,  
 (c) optionally, a layer  $D^M$  having a transparency of from 50 to 100% and a complex refractive index  $\tilde{N} = n + ik$  satisfying the condition  $\sqrt{n^2 + k^2} \geq 1.5$  at the wavelength of maximum visible reflection of the particles, which is substantially composed of carbon, an organic compound, inorganic or organic pigments or colorants, a metal, metal oxides or sulfides, a dielectric or a mixture thereof, and which is either on top of the core or, if an  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer is present, is separated from the core by the  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer.

**8. (previously presented)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 7~~1~~, wherein the gloss pigment has the following layer structure:

- (b2)  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer,
- (b1)  $\text{SiO}_x$  core wherein  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$ ,
- (b2)  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer, or
- (b3) layer  $D^M$ ,
- (b2)  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer,
- (b1)  $\text{SiO}_x$  core wherein  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$ ,
- (b2)  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer,
- (b3) layer  $D^M$ .

**9. (currently amended)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 8, wherein the materials for the layer  $D^M$  are selected from metals selected from the group consisting of Ag, Al, Au, Cu, Co, Cr, Fe, Ge, Mo, Nb, Ni, Si, Ti, V and alloys thereof, inorganic pigments, organic pigments, other

colorants, graphite, and metal oxides or sulfides selected from the group consisting of MoS<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, SiO, SnO<sub>2</sub>, GeO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, PbTiO<sub>3</sub> and CuO.

**10. (currently amended)** A process for printing a planar substrate according to ~~the~~ an ink-jet printing method, which comprises printing the substrate with an aqueous ink composition according to claim 1.

**11-15. (cancelled)**

**16. (previously presented)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are aluminium flakes coated with SiO<sub>z</sub> wherein  $1.1 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .

**17. (currently amended)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 5, wherein the pigment has the following layer structure: ~~especially SiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>x</sub>/SiO<sub>z</sub>/SiO<sub>x</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>, especially SiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>x</sub>/Al/SiO<sub>x</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>, especially TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>x</sub>/SiO<sub>z</sub>/SiO<sub>x</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub> or especially TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>x</sub>/Al/SiO<sub>x</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>~~, wherein  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$  and  $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .

**18. (currently amended)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are gloss pigments comprising

- (a) a core ~~substantially~~ consisting essentially of one or more silicon oxides (SiO<sub>x</sub> layer) wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to  $< 0.95$  or  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$  and
- (b) an SiO<sub>z</sub> layer, wherein, especially  $1.1 \leq y, z \leq 2.0$ .

**19. (previously presented)** An aqueous ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the gloss pigment has the following layer structure:

- (b2) SiO<sub>2</sub> layer,
- (b1) SiO<sub>x</sub> core wherein  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$ ,
- (b2) SiO<sub>2</sub> layer,

or

- (b3) layer D<sup>M</sup> composed of TiO<sub>2</sub>,
- (b2) SiO<sub>2</sub> layer,
- (b1) SiO<sub>x</sub> core wherein  $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$ ,
- (b2) SiO<sub>2</sub> layer,

(b3) layer D<sup>M</sup> composed of TiO<sub>2</sub>.

**20. (cancelled)**